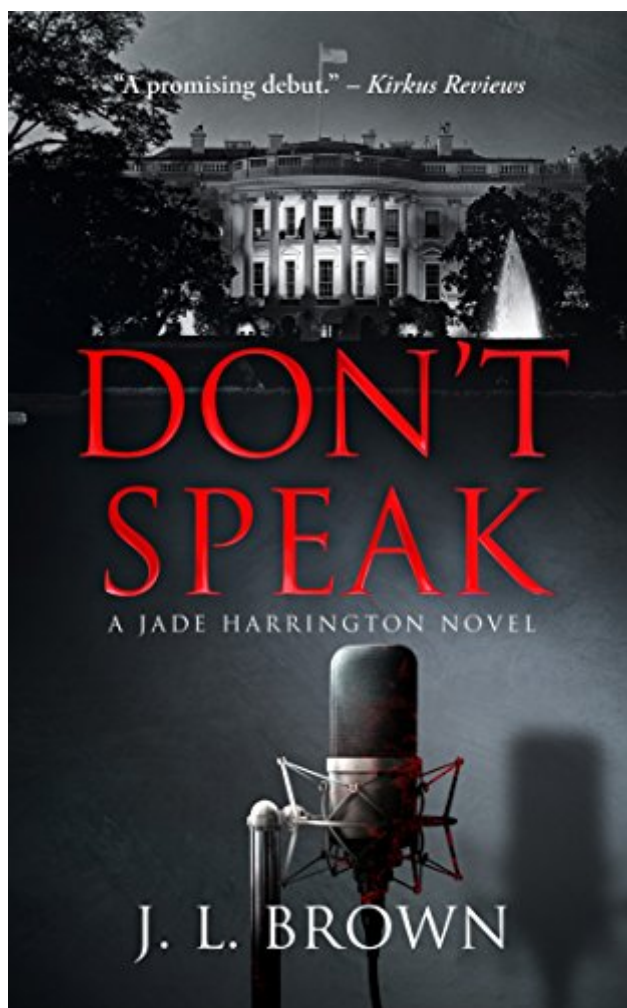


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Don't Speak: A Jade Harrington Novel (Jade Harrington Series Book 1)



Synopsis

The nursery rhyme was wrong. Words can hurt you. Ambitious, twenty-something FBI Special Agent Jade Harrington cuts her vacation short to investigate the murder of a conservative radio personality only to discover that he may be the victim of a serial killer. Whitney Fairchild, the elegant and charismatic Democratic senator from Missouri, campaigns in a cutthroat race for president of the United States. Cole Brennan, the most popular conservative talk-show host in the nation, battles nightly to save his country and help the incumbent Republican president maintain his position to win re-election. The lives of Jade, Whitney, Cole, and the killer who has an agenda of his own are on a collision course. That course will not just impact them each in ways they could never have foreseen, but also the future of the United States of America. Amidst a backdrop of contemporary power politics driven by the influence of talk radio and social media, DON'T SPEAK thrills even as it explores many of the complex issues facing Americans today.

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Customer Reviews

This novel is a real page turner. I finished it within a couple of days and it held my interested throughout. It was not predictable and held many surprises, right up to the ending. The novel chronicles a crime investigation conducted by FBI Special Agent Jade Harrington. Harrington is a solid and likable character. Other characters take us through the world of politics, causes, and the lengths to which people go to promote their beliefs. There are several things that make this novel recommended. 1) All characters have flaws, but also have something to like or empathize with (even the villains in the story). 2) The various stories weave seamlessly together to tell not one but several compelling stories. 3) the chapters are short which helps the storyline flow and not become bogged down in details. Frankly, I can see this book becoming a successful movie that I would pay to see. This is the first book for the author, J.L. Brown. Here's hoping this is the first of many. I recommend this book.

As an avid reader and somewhat of a book snob I somewhat cringe at debut novels because, well, they just aren't that well written sometimes. I sure can't say that about *Don't Speak*, the debut novel from J.L. Brown. This book did not read as a debut novel but as one from a seasoned author. A fascinating storyline along with sharp writing made this book impossible to put down. This book had me hooked from page one. I enjoyed how the author combined the political, legal, and entertainment aspects of the story into one storyline that was easy to follow and easy to believe. I also liked how the author changed from third-person telling of the story to first-person in the killer's chapters. This made me feel like I was in the mind of the killer and it really added to the story. I also loved how the political storyline seemed as if it was ripped from today's headlines. This really added a layer of authenticity to the story and made it seem real. I loved the fact that the author kept me guessing until the end as to who the killer was. I have to admit I was shocked when the killer was revealed and their story was told in full. And then there's one more surprise left for the readers. When I realized what the surprise was I have to say it was a jaw dropping moment. This just made me love the book even more and also the author's ability to keep me on the edge of my seat and guessing from beginning to end. J.L. Brown is a gifted storyteller and this book proves it. I can't wait to read the next Jade Harrington novel. Jade is a character I enjoyed reading about and want to know more about. She is strong yet vulnerable and is a character that most females can relate to. I'm hoping the next novel will keep Jade's group together and we can learn more about those

characters as well. If you enjoy reading thrillers you will enjoy this book. Although there are some graphic descriptions in the book nothing is too gory. (Believe me, I am someone who doesn't like to read really gory, yucky scenes in books and nothing in this book made me cringe.) Now I'm off to anxiously await the next installment in the Jade Harrington series.

This novel isn't perfect, but it's an excellent step-out for first-time author JL Brown, and I want more. Loved: -Brown knows and fleshes out her scenery. When she describes where the characters are walking, living, doing, you get to know it, even if you've never been. From Crystal City by DC to Seattle, you get to know your settings. -Though she can be a little preachy with the politics some times, she does a great job of really presenting the why behind the conservative and liberal mindsets, and she makes humans out of the lead political characters Cole Brennan (loving and dedicated father who truly cares about the country in his own way, not just a cartoonish Rush Limbaugh-type) and Whitney Fairchild (Junior senator balancing a presidential campaign, extramarital affair scandal who, though she holds leftish views, understands and values the compromise necessary to represent all Americans well.) -The diversity! It's not all tough white dudes and soft-hearted women there to heal their wounds! This novel looks like the real world. There are good and bad women and men of all ethnic backgrounds. I know the Bechdel test is for movies, but this book passes :) -Jade is clearly the head of the investigation, but Brown does a good job of really fleshing out the rest of the team, and you feel invested in them. I hope to see them in future novels, too. Didn't love: In the vein of too many thriller heroes/heroines, Jade is a loner with a sour past that keep her from connecting well with others. Unlike some other novels' leads, she isn't arrogant and condescending to others, as much as she is stubborn and nervous to share the burden. This leads her to be unnecessarily irritable on occasion, to the detriment of those around her. This isn't bad, per se, I just wish she could be a little more likable.

Don't Speak provides an interesting read for several reasons. First of all the storyline is very politically orientated. The plot is about a serial killer who murders conservative radio-talkshow hosts. The main motive of the killer is the way these commentators rant about liberals, equal rights and topics like abortion and same sex marriage. I haven't come across many thrillers that address these subjects. Secondly the pace is good and the tension remains high. (Possible spoilers ahead!!) Surprisingly though, I guessed who the killer was half way through the book and also what his link with one of the main characters was. As I don't consider myself a greater sleuth than the average reader, that must mean there's a considerable amount of predictability to the story. I shrugged off

my initial hunch because in my view the killer's occupation couldn't possibly have given him the time to meticulously plan his murders. But in the end it did turn out to be him, which makes the solution somewhat improbable. So, 3 stars for a well written thriller, but no more than that because of its predictable nature

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